

**TITLE: INCREMENTAL BRAKING APPARATUS AND METHOD  
OF BRAKING**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An incremental braking apparatus and method includes a first rotating member having a plurality of rigid stops spaced circumferentially around an outer cylindrical surface of the first rotating member, and a plurality of flexible stops arranged in a  
5 plurality of rows on a stationary member. The flexible stops are selectively movable toward the first rotating member from a disengaged position into an engaged position in which the flexible stops engage the rigid stops to provide a braking action on the first rotating member. An actuator with a beveled edge for engaging the outer ends of the flexible stops is operable to move a selected number of rows of the flexible stops  
10 into their engaged positions to provide an incremental braking effect. The rows of flexible stops are staggered such that the flexible stops in adjacent rows are not in circumferential alignment.